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HOTEL 101: HAVE A NICE STAY {page 15}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, November 20, 2012

Black Friday G

▶ When it comes to Black Friday shopping, Santa has nothing on our gift guide. {pages 18-28}

Beat Santa to Macy's this Friday

Judge expected to rule today in transgender inmate's case

Findings due on whether murderer should receive state-funded hair removal during appeal State also seeking to have sex-change operation halted {page 02}

the word

The Rihanna jet becomes a crazy train

Our embedded journalist gets the naked truth on exactly what is going down {page 12}

Sports: NBA power rankings {page 30}

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Transgender inmate's battle about treatment continues

Michelle Kosilek, who killed wife in 1990, raises issue about pronoun use ◗ Court also hears arguments about continuing her electrolysis treatment and putting sex-change surgery on hold ◗ Rulings due today

A transgender inmate who is the subject of a controversial decision allowing for her sex-change surgery is battling to continue electrolysis treatments, while the Department of Correction wants to delay the surgery during its appeals.

Michelle Kosilek, who was born Robert, was in federal court with her team of lawyers yesterday as a judge heard arguments on various issues in the case. Kosilek killed her wife, Cheryl, in Mansfield in 1990. Judge Mark Wolf ordered earlier this year that the DOC must allow and pay for Kosilek's sex-change surgery because she suffers from gender identity disorder and not allowing the surgery is a violation of her Eighth Amendment rights.

Kosilek is seeking an order to continue her electrolysis treatment to remove hair during the appeal because it causes her distress. It was stopped after six sessions, and the reason why was not immediately clear.

"I do feel strongly, though, that it's time for sanctions and electrolysis in this case," said Frances Cohen, Kosilek's attorney.

Cohen quizzed Dr. Robert Diener, the chief psychiatrist of the DOC, about his evaluation of Kosilek's need for electrolysis and asked him repeatedly why he didn't ask her to grow out her facial hair as he was making his determination.

Diener said he believed Kosilek was exaggerating how much hair she had and that her view was distorted.

Diener also testified that another clinician told him the reason the treatments were stopped was because they cost too much.

However, a DOC attorney produced some of Kosilek's mental health records that indicated the treatments were stopped because "her response was not as good as hoped." Clinicians recommended Kosilek use Nair or other hair-removal techniques instead.

The DOC is also seeking to halt the sex-change surgery while the agency appeals the decision.

Wolf said he would likely issue written rulings on the matter today.

AP IMAGES

▶ Robert J. Kosilek, now known as Michelle, is seen Jan. 15, 1993, in Bristol County Superior Court, where Kosilek was on trial for the May 1990 murder of her wife.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

What is electrolysis?

Electrolysis permanently removes hair by using a probe to send an electrical current alongside the hair follicle to destroy the root. According to an informal survey of several Boston-area skin-care centers, most clients require between eight to 15 treatments every two weeks at a cost ranging from $25 to $95 per treatment, depending on the client's needs.

"I do feel strongly, though, that it's time for sanctions and electrolysis in this case."
COHEN

Pronoun issues

Kosilek, who has been undergoing sex-change treatment and taking hormones for years, requested that the court refer to her as a woman and use female pronouns.

She appeared in court yesterday wearing a blue sweater and appearing to wear lipstick. Her hair was long and past her shoulders.

In his rulings, Wolf has referred to Kosilek as "he."

"The plaintiff, I believe, is a male with a major mental illness," Wolf said.

Quoted

"The plaintiff, I believe, is a male with major mental illness."
WOLF

$800K Also at issue were Kosilek's lawyer fees, which before yesterday's hearing totaled about $800,000. Because the judge ruled in favor of Kosilek, the DOC would have to pay the fees. Wolf said yesterday that the $800,000 "may go up" as litigation continues.

By the numbers

700

About 700 pounds of turkey will be served to those in need at the TD Garden today as part of the annual Table of Friends dinner. Various city and state leaders and celebrities will serve the meal to those in need. It is put on by the Garden's philanthropic arm, Garden Neighborhood Charities. METRO

Today's local tweet

"I don't think there will ever be a day when I don't feel like going to class. #Berklee"

@GOLIATHASSASSIN, ON HIS AVERSION TO PLAYING HOOKY

In the news

Highway safety chief to be reassigned

BOSTON. In the wake of a report outing the state highway safety director as having a long record of accidents and driving infractions, Gov. Deval Patrick said Sheila Burgess should not have been hired for the job in 2007 and will be reassigned when she returns to work.

Burgess' driving record includes seven accidents, four speeding violations and two failures to stop for a police officer, as well as several parking tickets, according to the report.

Patrick yesterday called it a "screw-up" that Burgess was placed in the post of director of the Massachusetts Highway Safety Division. SHNS

Roxbury man accused of trafficking meth

BOSTON. A Roxbury man already on probation for conspiring to distribute methamphetamine was arraigned yesterday after getting a package on Friday that had a "large amount" of the stimulant, officials said.

▶ Swanson

Richard Swanson, 52, was charged with trafficking meth after a postal inspector at the Boston General Mail Facility reported a suspicious Express Mail package to state police.

A K-9 unit gave a positive alert for the scent of narcotics. The package was sent from North Hollywood, Calif., prosecutors said. METRO

Immigrant students to pay in-state rates

BOSTON. Some young immigrants brought to the country illegally as children will be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at Massachusetts public universities and community colleges as part of a new federal program put in place by President Barack Obama.

Gov. Deval Patrick yesterday planned to send a letter explaining that his administration has determined under existing state policy that immigrants granted deferred status by the federal government are eligible for reduced in-state tuition rates at the state's 29 college and university campuses. SHNS

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In the news

Free grilled cheese for riding with Peter Pan

BOSTON. Peter Pan has partnered with Boston-based restaurant Cheeseboy to offer student travelers a free grilled cheese when traveling through Nov. 25.
The promotion, which started last Tuesday, lets college students get a free cheese sandwich at South Station's Cheeseboy stand by showing their college I.D. and their Peter Pan bus ticket or receipt that shows they are traveling that day.
One catch: Students have to buy a drink or side to get the deal. METRO

WATCH to unveil 'worst toys'

BOSTON. World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc. will reveal its nominees for the 10 Worst Toys of 2012 today.

It is the 40th year that W.A.T.C.H. has offered information on the hidden dangers to look for while shopping for the holidays. This year's conference, set for 10 a.m. at the Franciscan Hospital for Children in Brighton, will highlight the hazards associated with Internet purchases. METRO

Quincy man charged after mowing down, killing wife with car

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The Quincy scene where Michael Rivard allegedly struck and killed his wife, Beatrice Rivard, and seriously injured another relative yesterday morning

A 48-year-old Quincy man was charged with motor vehicle homicide after running over and killing his wife near their Sea Street home around 8 a.m. yesterday.

Michael Rivard, 48, was charged with motor vehicle homicide and negligent operation, as well as driving with a revoked license and impeded operation of a motor vehicle after killing his wife Beatrice Rivard, a spokesman for the Norfolk County District Attorney's Office said.

Another man, believed to be related to the couple, was injured in the accident and was still undergoing medical treatment yesterday afternoon.

Specifics on the accident were unclear yesterday, but photographs taken at the scene show a green Lincoln parked on the sidewalk. Witnesses told a Quincy newspaper that the victim's body had to be pulled out from under the car.

"There is still a lot under investigation and a lot of questions that don't have answers right now," Norfolk County District Attorney spokesman David Traub said yesterday.

Witnesses told a local news station that Rivard appeared "shocked" and "confused" after the accident.

Witness Robin Sargent told WCVB, "He stood with his cane and was screaming, 'Help me, help me. Get help. Oh, my God, oh, my God.'"

Another witness, Brandon Bergstrom, told the television news station, "He said the car started taking off, and he tried to hit the brake but he hit the gas and next thing he knows she's under the car."

A judge yesterday revoked Rivard's bail on a prior case of driving while under the influence of drugs, and set bail on yesterday's case at $10,000 cash.

He is due back in court on Dec. 14.

Quoted

"There is a lot still under investigation and a lot of questions that don't have answers right now."
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BOSTON

DONALD ROCKHEAD/METRO

▶ Shoppers browse the clothing racks at 344, which has locations on Newbury Street and at the Prudential Center.

Stores set their sights on Small Business Saturday

Black Friday may belong to the big box stores, but Saturday belongs to the small shops.

Local small business owners are setting their sights on Saturday with the third annual Small Business Saturday.

The American Express event encourages people to shop at local, small businesses on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Debbie Musnikow, the operations director at Cambridge-based Stellabella Toys, said the event has brought in some new customers.

"It was a very successful event last year and we're looking forward to it being successful this year," Musnikow said.

Rosemarie Sansone, president of the Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, said hundreds of small businesses in the Downtown Crossing area will benefit from the event.

"It's wonderful when small businesses get this kind of attention," she said.

The event coincides with the opening of Downtown Crossing's holiday market, which is made up of 30 small business vendors. METRO/MN

Bev Scott fields fiery T questions, meets riders

The future general manager of the MBTA answered questions about the 'hot mess' transit agency Scott says she's encouraged by the feedback

After mingling with Boston-area commuters during yesterday's rush hour, Dr. Beverly Scott took to the Web to answer questions from the riders who will pay her salary when she takes over next month as the T's new general manager.

During an hour-long live chat on Boston.com, MBTA customers grilled Scott on how she plans to handle the transit agency's budget gap and how she would fix what they consider to be poor service.

One customer went so far as to call the transit agency "a hot mess."

"I don't think of it as a hot mess," Scott replied on the forum. "We have plenty of challenges and opportunities in front of us. Working together we will get there."

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Scott greeted one of the MBTA's bomb-sniffing dogs at South Station yesterday.

She went on to field questions about funding, or lack thereof, growing ridership and simple conveniences, like wireless Internet access at all stations and countdown signs.

When asked why she would seek more funding rather than work within the existing budget, Scott said the struggling transit agency can not cut itself into prosperity.

Earlier in the day, joined by Secretary of Transportation Richard Davey at South Station, Scott told reporters she is encouraged by the feedback she has gotten about the transportation system, but is aware that people's finances are tight.

"People here get it. This community gets it. ... We are not obviously in any kind of periods of abundance. These are periods of scarcity and so figuring out exactly what's the right combination in terms of how we move forward is the challenge," she said.

More on Bev

- Since 2007, Scott has been the CEO and general manager at Atlanta's MARTA, the ninth-largest public transit system in the nation.
- She's worked around the U.S. in public transportation leadership for 30 years. She will be the first woman to head up the MBTA and the second African-American. She's slated to start on on Dec. 15, and will earn $220,000 a year under a three-year contract.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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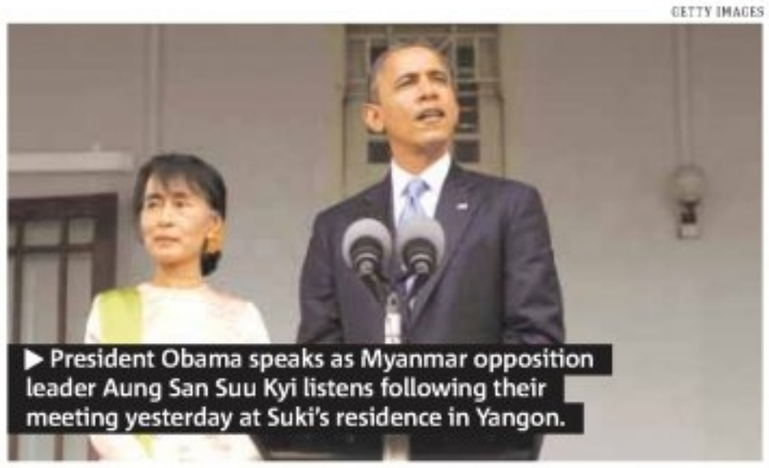
Obama offers praise, pressure on historic trip

GETTY IMAGES



▶ President Obama speaks as Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi listens following their meeting yesterday at Suki's residence in Yangon.

Barack Obama became the first American president to visit Myanmar yesterday, using a six-hour trip to balance U.S. praise for the government's progress in shaking off military rule with pressure to complete the process of democratic reform.

Obama, greeted by enthusiastic crowds in the former capital, Yangon, met President Thein Sein, a former junta member who has spearheaded reforms since taking office in March 2011, and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I recognize that this is just the first steps on what will be a long journey, but we think that a process of democratic reform and economic reform here in Myanmar ... can lead to incredible development opportunities here," Obama said, using the country name preferred by the government and former junta, rather than Burma, which is used in the United States.

Thein Sein, speaking in Burmese with an interpreter translating his remarks, responded that the two sides would move forward "based on mutual trust, respect and understanding."

Tens of thousands of well-wishers lined Obama's route from the airport, cheering him as he went by.

REUTERS

The trip

Obama's Southeast Asian trip was aimed at showing how serious he is about shifting the U.S. strategic focus eastward as America winds down wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The so-called "Asia pivot" is also meant to counter China's rising influence.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ LaGuardia Airport in NYC

Fitch report: Fiscal cliff could push unemployment above 10 percent

The so-called fiscal cliff could trigger a second recession, a 2 percent decline in GDP to flat 0.4-percent growth and increased unemployment to upwards of 10 percent, all of which would dramatically affect demand for U.S. transportation assets, according to a new report by Fitch Ratings.

"Given the far-reaching effects of the fiscal cliff, it is not expected that Congress will allow these tax and spending cuts to take effect. But were it to occur, the effect on airports, roads, tunnels and bridges could be significant and could pressure ratings," said Michel McDermott, managing director and head of the U.S. transportation team.

Fitch would expect road, tunnel and bridge facilities to suffer smaller declines than those experienced in the 2008-2009 recession because employment levels have not returned to prerecession levels and the depth of the cliff scenario, as currently envisioned, is milder than the recent recession. REUTERS

5%

Under the cliff scenario, Fitch would expect airport volumes to range from flat to a 5 percent decline, depending on the nature of the market.

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US buying, keeping homes for the holidays

Raising the roof

Housing recovery gains traction

Home resales rose in October and a gauge of homebuilder sentiment climbed to a six-year high in November, signs of surprising vigor in the country's still-struggling housing market.

The National Association of Realtors said yesterday that existing home sales climbed 2.1 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.79 million units, beating forecasts by Wall Street economists.

Separately, strengthening demand for new homes drove an increase in a monthly measure of home builder sentiment, which hit a more than six-year high in November, topping even the most optimistic forecast in a Reuters poll of analysts.

Rising home prices and a faster pace of sales have shown the housing market has finally turned the corner this year. The market collapsed when a mortgage debt bubble burst in 2006, helping trigger the 2007-09 recession. **REUTERS**

Camp Liberty attacks

Soldier enters no plea in 2009 deaths

A U.S. soldier accused of killing five fellow servicemen at a military combat stress center in Baghdad in 2009 entered no plea at an arraignment yesterday. Sgt. John Russell is accused of going on a shooting spree at Camp Liberty, near the Baghdad airport. Russell, of the 54th Engineer Battalion based in Germany, faces five charges of premeditated murder, one charge of aggravated assault and one charge of attempted murder. **REUTERS**

Sunken costs

Gulf settlement sees BP open to takeover

Reduced to the status of Europe's second-largest oil company after a settlement over the Gulf oil spill, BP is now seen as vulnerable to a takeover. It is the cheapest of the world's five biggest nonstate oil companies by market value relative to reserves and output.

As a result it may become a target. "You can absolutely make the case that it's a potential takeover target," said Julian Birkinshaw, a professor of strategy and entrepreneurship at the London Business School. **BLOOMBERG**

Banking on relief

Banks provide $22B in mortgage relief

Five U.S. banks have provided about $22 billion in mortgage relief to customers under a deal to settle borrowers' accusations over foreclosures, a report by the settlement's monitor said yesterday. The report said that Bank of America Corp., which owes the most, improved in delivering first-lien mortgage modifications to customers, trailing only JPMorgan Chase & Co. through September. Bank of America provided $889.2 million in first-lien modifications that reduced loan balances for consumers. JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s total was $903.1 million in modifications. **REUTERS**

$22B Total in customer relief provided by the five banks

New hire woes

Just what did he know and when?

How much New York Times CEO Mark Thompson knew about a sex abuse scandal involving an entertainer at the BBC, when Thompson was its director general, was questioned again yesterday. On Oct. 13 this year, Thompson said he had never received complaints about Jimmy Savile. Yet it emerged that in August this year Thompson threatened to sue a U.K. newspaper for alleging Savile had abused children during his time at the BBC. **METRO**

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Israel prefers diplomacy but is ready to invade the Gaza Strip

Israel bombed dozens of targets in the Gaza Strip yesterday and said that while it was prepared to step up its offensive by sending in troops, it preferred a diplomatic solution that would end Palestinian rocket fire.

Mediator Egypt said a deal for a truce to end the fighting could be close. The leader of Hamas said it was up to Israel to end the new conflict it had started. Israel says its strikes are to halt Palestinian rocket attacks.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, touring the region in hopes of helping broker a peace arrived in Cairo, where he met Egypt's foreign minister in preparation for talks with the new, Islamist president, Mohamed Mursi, today. He also plans to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

Israeli attacks on the sixth day of fighting raised the number of Palestinian dead to 101, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said, listing 24 children among them. Hospital officials in Gaza said more than half of those killed were non-combatants. Three Israeli civilians died on Thursday in a rocket strike.

Militants in the Gaza Strip fired 110 rockets at southern Israel yesterday, causing no casualties, police said.

For the second straight day, Israeli missiles blasted a tower block in the city of Gaza housing international media.

Two people were killed there, one of them an Islamic Jihad militant. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"Whoever started this war must end it."

KHALED MESHAAL, EXILED HAMAS LEADER

US response

Obama urges Mursi to call for end to rockets

President Barack Obama stressed the need for an end to Hamas rocket attacks on Israel in a telephone call to Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi yesterday to discuss ways to de-escalate cross-border fighting in Gaza, the White House said.

Obama "underscored the necessity of Hamas ending rocket fire into Israel" in his call to Mursi, the White House said in a statement. During the call, and in a separate one to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, Obama voiced regret over the loss of Israeli and Palestinian lives, the White House said. **REUTERS**

UN response

Ban Ki-moon to meet with Abbas, Netanyahu

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is to visit Jerusalem and the West Bank city of Ramallah this week for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on the crisis in Gaza, Ban's spokesman Martin Nesirky said yesterday. Ban arrived in Cairo to support Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi's efforts to mediate a truce to end cross-border fighting between Israel and Hamas, Nesirky said. Ban meets Mursi today but has no plans to visit Gaza, Nesirky said. **REUTERS**

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@ricky_martin
You want real advice, straight with no chasers and not sugar coated? Call a #Capricorn.

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"Work is the curse of the drinking class." Oscar Wilde

@chriscolfer
For the record, we're filming at a fancy engineering college and I hacked into the lecture hall computer to play honey badger on the screen.

Rihanna's 777 tour: The rebel journos are getting restless

MARC PIASECKI/FILMMAGIC

▶ Rihanna is shown here arriving at Roissy Airport in France. Apparently she hasn't been seen that many other times by the people traveling with her.

Rihanna's 777 tour — in which she's traveling to seven cities in seven days, with a plane full of fans and journalists — reached London yesterday morning on the second-to-last stop. But there was no sign of the superstar on the plane from Berlin.

"Just one quote," chanted desperate reporters, begging Rihanna to appear.

Then things got a little "Lord of the Flies." **Tim Dormer**, an Australian radio presenter at Nova in Sydney, decided if he wasn't going to get a story, he'd become one: After 3 a.m., he suddenly burst from the toilet, completely naked. With his long curls bouncing, he made a quick tour of economy class wearing nothing but his birthday suit. The audience cheered.

Since Rihanna wasn't around to talk to anyone, we asked the streaker:

What were you thinking?
I was bored. It was 3 in the morning and we were on a plane and we've been on a plane for the past five days. I thought it would be fun. And it wasn't an easy task either; I had to dive over people.

Did you plan the whole thing?
No, I was just in the bathroom and thought it would be a fun thing.

How many will see this on YouTube, do you think?
Five, maybe? My mom, my dad, my gran, my boss and hopefully Rihanna. *[Editors' note: At press time the video had about 11,000 hits.]*

Did you run all the way up to her?
No, I didn't get that far.

How do you find the trip so far?
I'm having the time of my life. I saw her the first day and I see her on stage every night.

— Only one concert remains on Rihanna's 777 tour: New York tonight! Metro's Katarina Matsson has followed in the superstar's footsteps, on her jet, at the concerts and parties — one of the few reporters allowed on the plane.

The trend that needs to stop: Harem pants

▶ Bieber

The collaboration between **MC Hammer** and **Psy** on Sunday night's American Music Awards was amazing. Their harem pants, not so much. What is going on with their — and **Justin Bieber**'s — drawers? Aren't they worried about tripping? Don't their thighs chafe in the cold weather? Are they be hiding something in there? Small animals? Write in to let me know.

▶ Please, Hammer (and Psy): Don't wear 'em.

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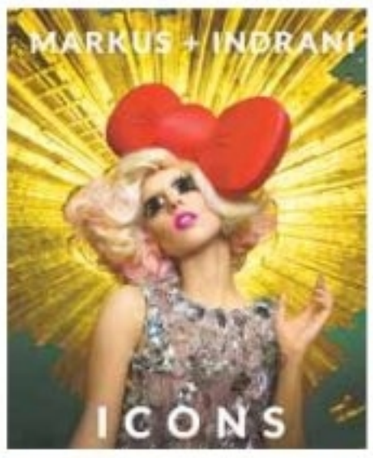

- The new coffee-table book 'ICONS' showcases the best work of celebrity photography duo Markus + Indrani
- See many alternate, never-before-seen photographs of today's most recognizable personalities such as Beyonce, Iman, Daphne Guinness, Anne Hathaway, Channing Tatum, Davie Bowie and more
- Here's just a taste of the more than 250 photographs compiled in the book

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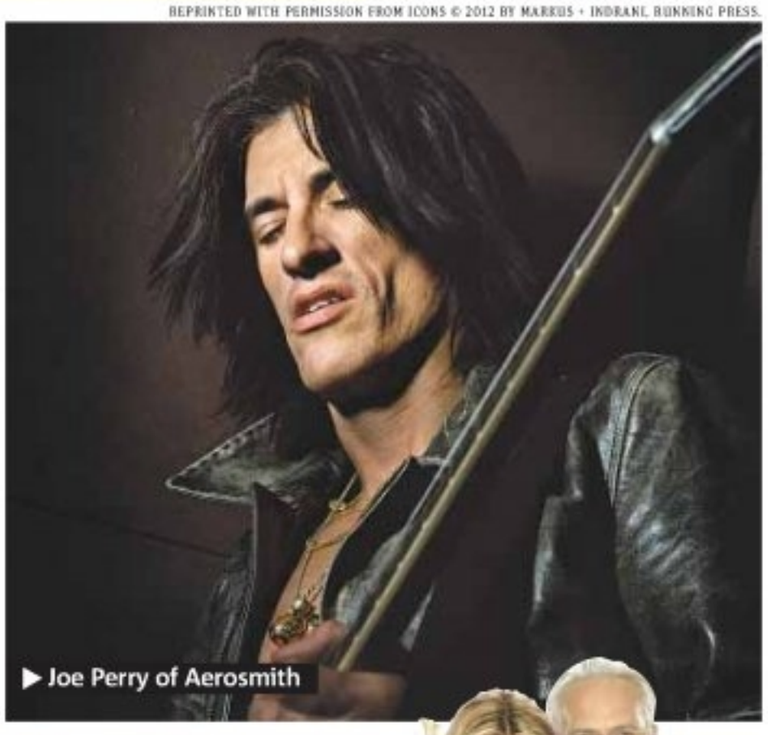
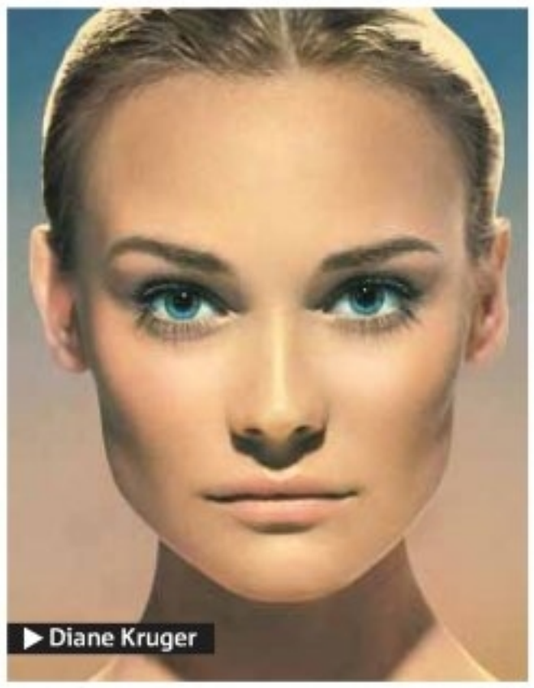
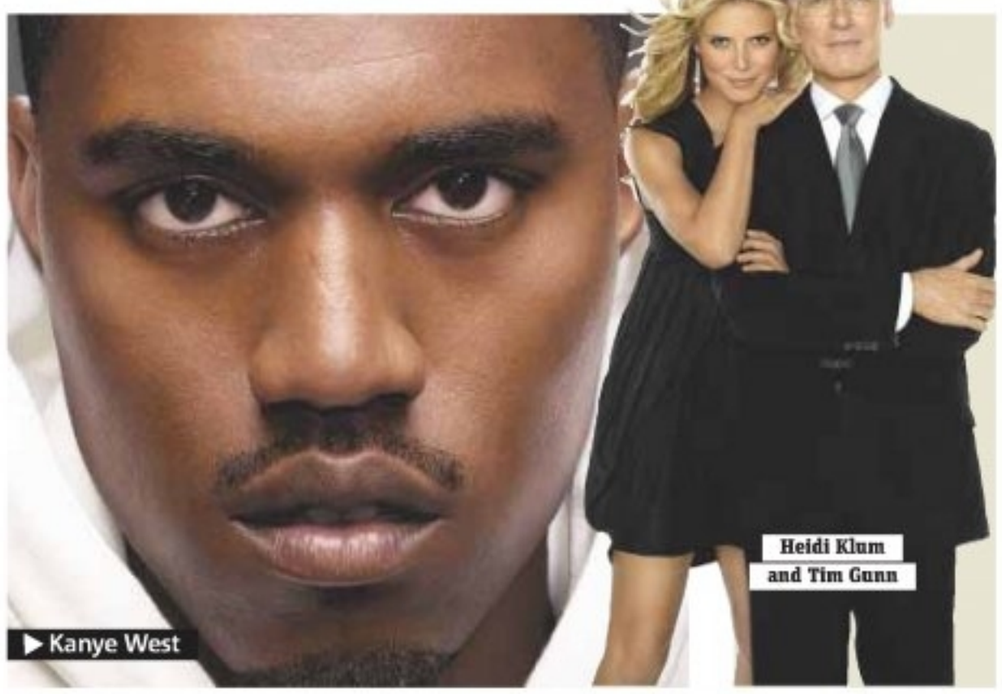

▶ Joe Perry of Aerosmith


▶ Diane Kruger

▶ They created the award-winning cover for Beyonce for her solo debut "Dangerously in Love."


▶ Kanye West

Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn

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TV watch list

'American Masters: Inventing David Geffen'

DOCUMENTARY. An impresario of the music, movie and theater worlds, David Geffen receives a tribute from famous friends and colleagues who love and, yes, sometimes even loathe the hardworking, arrogant man. As the story of a working-class kid who became an unparalleled entertainment mastermind unfolds, one thing becomes clear: Everyone respects this guy. **8 p.m., PBS**

'Happy Endings'

COMEDY. What's the gang thankful for? The season of "The Real World" that never made it to air. Apparently, that's where Max and Brad met. **9 p.m., ABC**

'New Girl'

COMEDY. Jess tries to reunite her divorced mom (Jamie Lee Curtis) and dad (Rob Reiner), "Parent Trap" style. **9 p.m., Fox**

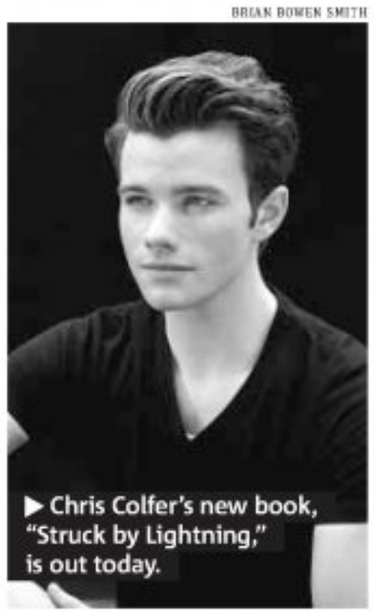
AMBER RAY

CHRIS COLFER HAS ALL THE LUCK

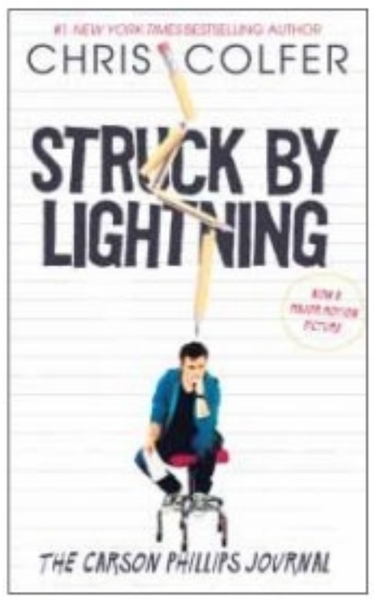
The singer, actor and dancer now adds another title to his resume: Author Colfer on his new young-adult novel 'Struck by Lightning'

Golden Globe-winning actor. New York Times best-selling author. Named one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People. Not bad for a 22-year-old. And now Chris Colfer is stepping up his game with "Struck by Lightning," a film he wrote in high school and stars in, due out in January. It's also the title of Colfer's second novel, out today, written as the journal of the film's main character, Carson Phillips.

BRIAN BOWEN SMITH



▶ Chris Colfer's new book, "Struck by Lightning," is out today.



Turning a screenplay into a book seems like kind of a backward adaptation.

Oh, it totally was. It was really a very unique process. I wrote the screenplay, and the way the screenplay is formatted compared to the way the movie was edited is completely different. There are many scenes that were cut — well, there were many scenes that had to be cut because we couldn't afford to film them.

How do you want readers to experience the book as opposed to those seeing the movie?

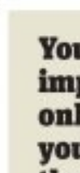
The journal takes place over the course of his last few months alive and the movie takes place back and forth between his life and after his death. So I think the journal offers an inside look into everything that was going on in his head at the time — pursuing his goals and blackmailing his peers.

About that blackmailing: Did you worry about including dark material like that, considering the stances you've taken on causes like bullying and gay rights?

Not really. Everyone really has me on a very big role-model pedestal. But they forget that before I was a role model thanks to "Glee," I was an actor. I don't think I'm ever going to worry about material that I create or portray that might affect my role-model status. I'm always very cautious about things I say in interviews and how I present myself, but I don't think I'll ever be persuaded not to do a project or not write because I'm worried that people might think less of me.

Your résumé is quite impressive, as you're only 22 years old. Do you know something that the rest of us don't about how much time we have left?

No ... [laughs]. And I swear to God, I don't have people helping me. I write everything authentically myself and by myself, and I don't really like working with other people. I don't think I can be creative with someone else. But I think it's just drive. I've always had this burning need to be a storyteller. Ever since I was a kid, it's what I love to do the most — create worlds and create characters.



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advice

After the party, it's the hotel lobby ◗ And that's where things get real ◗ Jacob Tomsky's irreverent new memoir 'Heads in Beds' chronicles the all-work, no-sleep, but never dull hotelier lifestyle and the innermost workings of high-end hotels ◗ Five-star tips for your next check-in

GRATUITOUS ADVICE FOR A GREAT HOTEL STAY

▶ You don't have to pay for room service to have a good time. Jacob Tomsky tells us how. And remember: Always tip.

GODSHOOT

If "service is about minimizing negatives and creating the illusion of perfection," what are some ways hotels cater to a vacationer's fantasies?
In a hotel, you essentially have servants — people who get you things, clean things for you. Invisibility is also an element. You go out to get lunch and magically when you come back everything's perfect; there's a feeling of luxury that comes from not seeing who's working for you. And extra amenities — lint rollers, deodorants, slippers — there are so many things hotels have to make you feel at home, but those aren't things you actually have at home.
Tip, pg. 73: Don't get too comfortable. *"Messiness looks like trash to housekeepers."*

How might you persuade a guest to take advantage of the hotel experience?
Make a connection with the front-desk agent or doorman and anytime you enter the lobby, they'll call you by name and ask if you need anything. Take bell service so you don't have to deal with your luggage. Indulge in movies and the minibar. [Disputing these charges] is pretty much a victimless crime; hotels pay a set rate for cable. And there are ways to avoid markups. If you want room service, but it's like $49 for a burger, call the front desk or get online: Many restaurants deliver to hotels. Call room service and say, "I'm going to eat in my room, can you send up plates and silverware?" You'll get your opulent setup — they might charge you a small fee — and then eat take-out.
Tip, pg. 32: Watch plenty of porn. *"The systems have changed, and [hotel staff] can no longer see the movie titles [or] have access to your specific fetishes."*

What's the tipping standard for a hotel?
The rock bottom for bellmen and doormen is $2 a bag. I also think going under $5 is a bad idea; give $5 to the doorman and $10 to the bellman. It's important to have them on your side (obviously, with access to your personal items). If you're checking in and you have no cash, there is an ATM around. And not having change sounds like a horrible excuse. Some people feel weird about tipping; that's one thing I'd like to get rid of. I remember I was walking through a hotel lobby and this lady was like, "I want to thank you for what you did for me." I still have no idea who she was and I'm pretty sure I didn't help her, but she gave me a dollar, so I said, "Thank you." That's when I knew I was a full-on hustler [laughs]. It's not uncomfortable [to accept tips] for little bits of service. You look bad if you don't tip, but you don't look bad if you try to tip.
Tip, pg. 53: Take home the embroidered bathrobe. *"Once you've dropped money on a houseman, anything his department has to offer is yours for the taking."*

Any advice for solo travelers?
If you have a doorman [at your hotel], that guy's like the ambassador to the 20-block radius. Introduce yourself. Don't talk their ear off; the doorman's not really going to be your friend, especially during a two-night stay if you've never been there before. But he will help you find your way around. Ask questions and then tip small amounts for the information.
Tip, pg. 105: You don't have to be so self-sufficient. *"In case you didn't know: hotels provide pillows. It's a standard hotel worker pet peeve to see BYOP guests."*

What are some key words guests should use to get on the good side of hotel staff?
Start sentences with "I understand." Like, "I understand that you are really busy and there are not a lot of rooms available, but if there is something …" Just be aware that there's a huge difference between demanding and requesting. Using those words means that "I understand that I am not guaranteed what I am about to ask for."
Tip, pg. 42: Complain thoughtfully. *"Before approaching any employee, try to pinpoint exactly what the problem is ... and then, if possible, what solution would make you feel satisfied."*

GINA ANGELOTTI
gina.angelotti@metro.us

Q&A

▶ Tomsky

How has "being all things to all people" affected your life outside of hotels?

I've learned to be a chameleon. Being able to read people and adapt myself to them for our mutual benefit is a life skill. There's no reason not to alter your personality just a little bit based on the person you're dealing with. That's called being polite.

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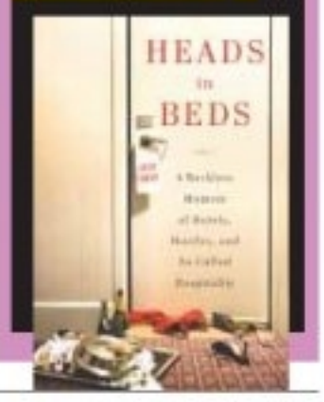

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hot tickets

Still Crazy Horse after all these years

One of Neil Young's right-hand men, Poncho Sampedro, on how his band couldn't adopt a new sound if they tried What the rocker thinks of Jimmy Fallon's impersonation of him

Poncho Sampedro is a humble man. Throughout a half-hour discussion, the rhythm guitarist for Crazy Horse proudly acknowledges limitations with his instrument, limitations with his band's sound and limitations with his own ability to recite the lyrics of any of the Neil Young songs that he's been playing for more than 30 years.

"I try to pick up on the words, but unfortunately I'm not that good at it. And so there's a lot of his songs I have my own words for," he says. "I can't sing one whole song all the way through, I don't think."

Even if he went to a karaoke bar and somebody signed him up for a rock radio staple like "Powderfinger"? "I can make it through the first and second verse, I think," he says.

But to say that Sampedro is humble doesn't mean he is lacking in confidence. In fact, he says that confidence is the key to his success and the reason that some of the elementary rhythms he has committed to tape are such classics.

"If you're confident that you're going to go up there and make it from the beginning of the set until the end, I think good things will happen," he says. "If you are worried, you're going to have a hard time."

A lot of it has to do with just feeling the music, he says.

"If we approach it with an open mind, somehow on a soul level, we connect," he says.

That confidence and dedication to following a feeling is all over the new albums that Neil Young and Crazy Horse released this year. Though tracks like "Oh Susannah" and "This Land is Your Land" on this spring's "Americana" album are standards, there is nothing standard about them in the hands of these four guys.

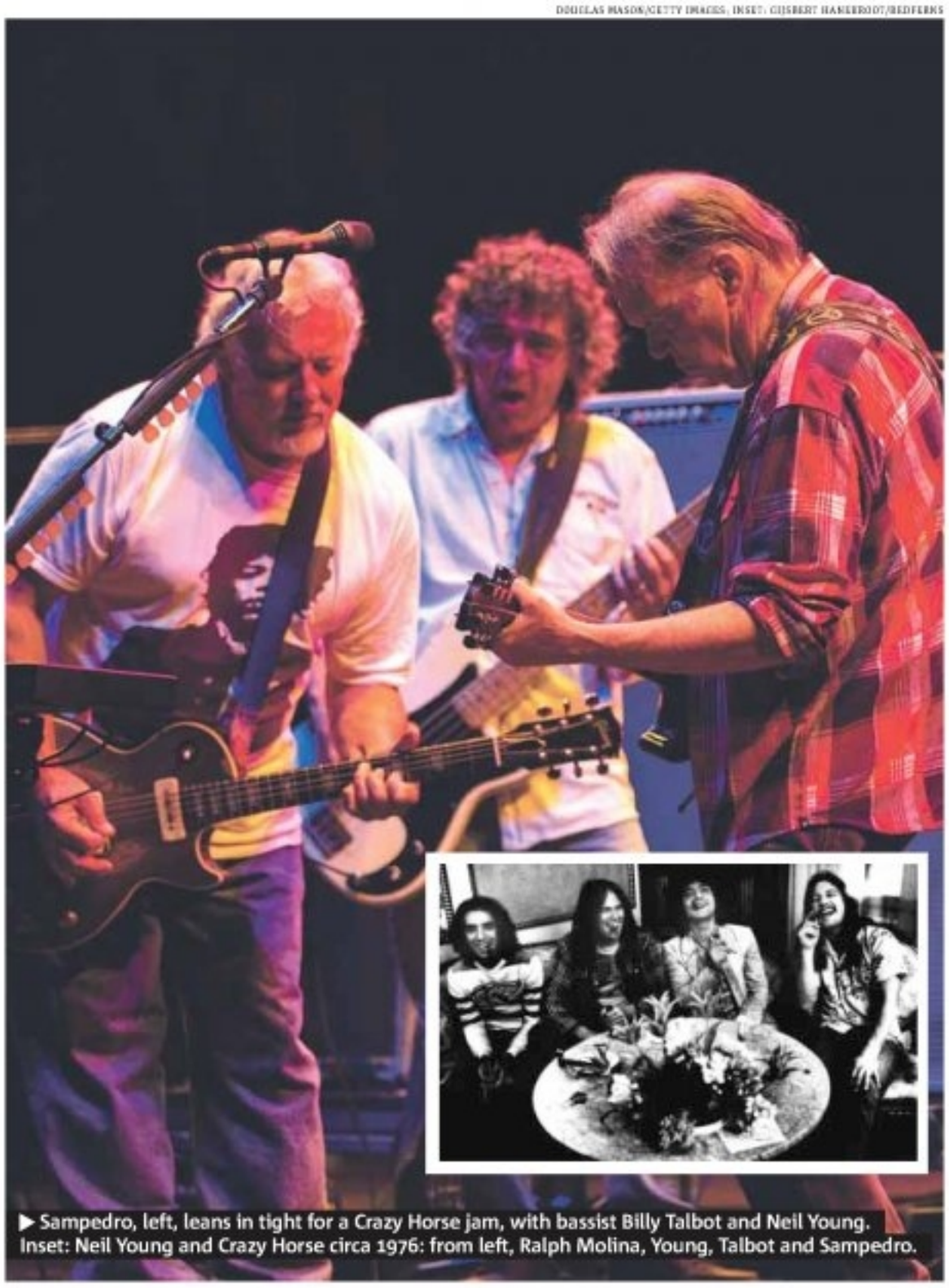
"We just have one sound and we can't get away from even if we try," says Sampedro with a laugh.

And with this fall's double-album they're even more themselves, as they get far out on the 27-minute jam haze of "Driftin' Back." All of the material benefits from the assured approach of a band that just knows how to play off each other. But don't confuse confidence or feel with perfection.

"There is a place where I play and I kind of walk through the clam fields for a while, and then Neil does the same thing," recounts Sampedro. "I even mentioned it to him. I said, 'Neil, if you listen to it, there are two spots where both of us are lost and we could clip that out easily, it's just a few seconds.' And he said, 'Well, then they wouldn't know how we got to the next place.'"

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

DOUGLAS MASON/GETTY IMAGES; INSET: GILBERT HAKEBROOT/REDFERNS



▶ Sampedro, left, leans in tight for a Crazy Horse jam, with bassist Billy Talbot and Neil Young. Inset: Neil Young and Crazy Horse circa 1976: from left, Ralph Molina, Young, Talbot and Sampedro.

If you go

Neil Young and Crazy Horse
Monday, 7:30 p.m.
TD Garden, 100 Legends Way, $72-$255, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Don't call me Frank

Sometimes Poncho Sampedro is credited on Crazy Horse albums with the name he was born with, Frank.

"I had a place in Mexico and everybody down there called me Poncho because that's the nickname for Frank. Francisco is Poncho. And then Neil at one point in his organization had three different Franks working for him, and everyone started getting confused as to what Frank said what. I just said, 'Just call me Poncho from now on, like they do in Mexico,' and that's how it started in America and it just stuck with me, and I really like the name."

Real Neil on fake Neil

What does Neil Young say about Jimmy Fallon's impersonation of him? Sampedro says the singer is a fan.

"He thinks that Jimmy does him great. He goes, 'God, he has it down!' But I think it makes him laugh. I don't think it ever really bothered him."

"Specifically, I have an amp, a guitar and a cord and that's it."

SAMPEDRO, ON HIS SETUP; HE NEVER USES ANY FANCY EFFECTS TO ENHANCE HIS SOUND.

Also playing

METZ

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Middle East Upstairs
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www.mideastclub.com

When we first saw Toronto band METZ play live, they brought an arsenal of testosterone-fueled guitar, pounding bass and crashing cymbals. We surrendered willingly. Frontman Alex Edkins screams over monster Black Flag choruses, but addressing the crowd, he has an innocent, courteous manner, like a Buddy Holly for the new millennium. At press time there were tickets still available — but jump on it soon, because it's a sure sell-out, with Pile and Speedy Ortiz opening the show.

Boston Tuba Christmas

Saturday, 11 a.m.
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Free, 617-523-1300
www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com

It's fun to think of you readers, looking at the listings in this box and saying, "Yeah, I think I'll go to that" to both of these shows. We always rep this annual all-tuba affair, staged in honor of the late local tuba instructor William J. Bell, whose birthday happens to be Christmas. About 150 players will be there, with tubas in a variety of timbres, producing a wider range of tones than you might expect.

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black friday guide

Shop Black Friday like a seasoned bargain pro

It's a jungle full of coupon-clipping soccer moms out there Before you go, arm yourself with expert advice

Only the strong survive Black Friday: Don't head into this without a strategy — and snacks.

Black Friday is a delicate balancing act between scoring as many great deals as possible and not turning into a crazed shopping Grinch. It's not a day for amateurs, so we hit up Dana Holmes, editor-in-chief of Gifts.com, for some expert tips on saving money and sanity.

Buy thoughtful gifts, not cheap stuff: It's hard to say no to a great sale, but don't just buy cashmere scarves because they're half-off for another hour. "Remember that a great deal isn't always a great gift," says Holmes. "Make sure you have a list of who you're shopping for, a budget for each person and some ideas for each person. I like to put some adjectives next to their names along with some of their favorite stores to stay focused."

Gift-list assist

Before you make your list and check it twice, head on over to Gifts.com and take the gift "personality quiz." It can help you figure out what to buy for your picky fashionista sister before you melt down at the Cinnabon stand.

Keep your receipts: You will make impulse buys that you regret — it's part of the day. "Keep a zippered pouch in your purse to keep your designated Black Friday receipts," advises Holmes. "You don't want to misplace any — you're buying a lot of stuff, you're excited and when you get home you may realize you don't want all of it."

Bum a ride: "I'm a big advocate for carpooling," says Holmes. "Go with your shopping buddies and you can save a parking space and gas, which is a hot commodity right now." Not to mention, it's nice to have company in the parking-garage traffic — because oh, yes, that is a real thing that happens.

Cross-check for online deals: Some deals, such as door-busters, are strictly in-store offers. But increasingly, retailers are offering the same sales online with plenty of perks. "If you see something you like, check it out on your phone — sometimes it can actually be just as cheap to buy it online, get it shipped and get it gift-wrapped for free," says Holmes. "Then you don't have to lug it around all day."

Don't fake being an early bird: Ultimately, Black Friday should be a silly, fun way to kick off the holiday season. If waiting in the dark for Best Buy's doors to open isn't your deal, sleep in and skip the door-buster deals. "It's more about the camaraderie — it's for a special kind of person who really enjoys that," says Holmes of the 5 a.m. openings. "Everybody else, just go when you want. There will be lines, parking will be tough, things will run out — you have to enjoy it for it to be worth it."

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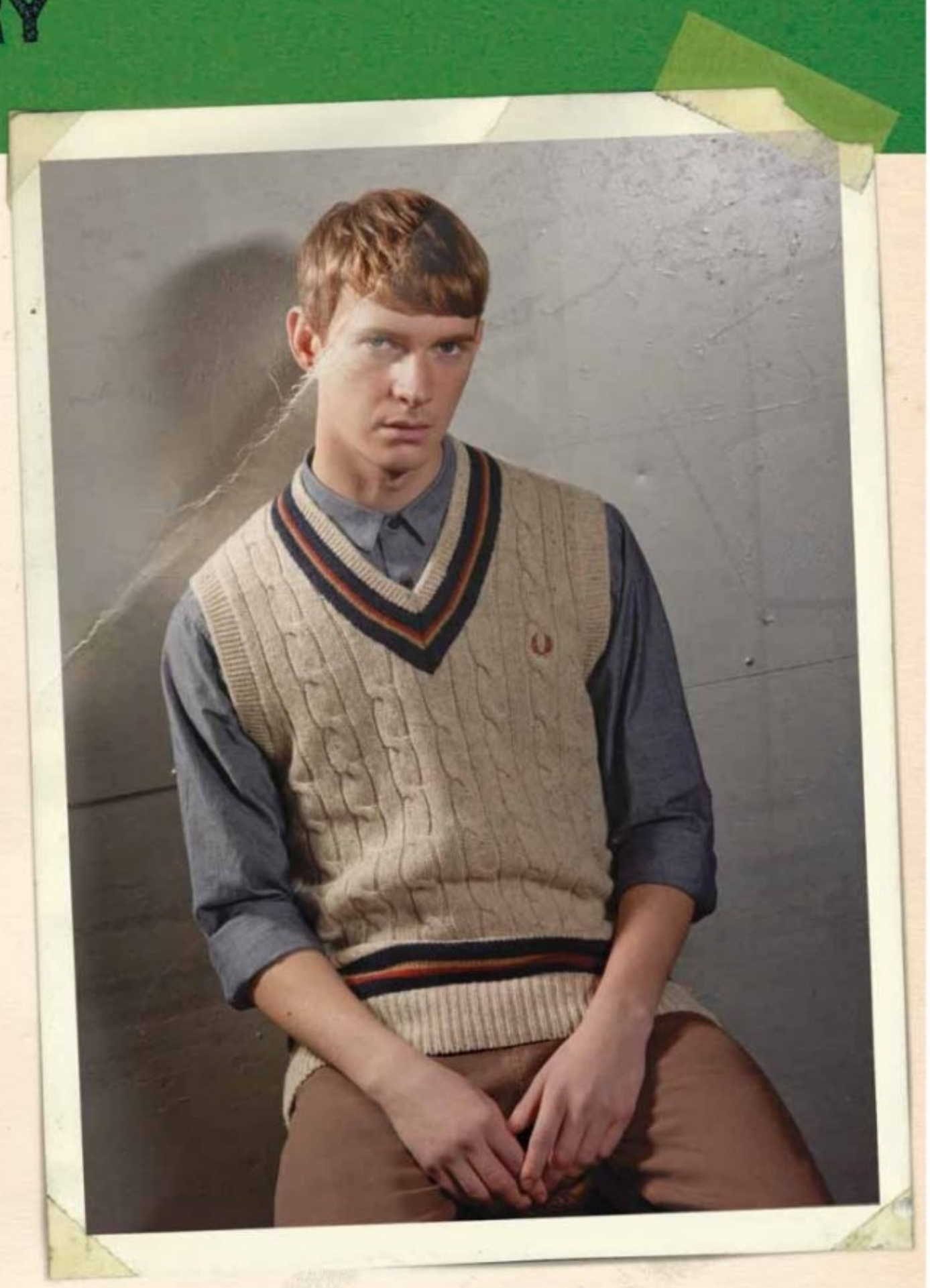

black friday guide

5 Things not to buy on Black Friday

Not everything is at its lowest price Lindsay Sakraida of Dealnews.com tells us what to skip

GETTY IMAGES

▶ If you're looking for name-brand electronics, hold off until early next year for the best price.

Toys: Unless you want to ruin your daughter's life forever, scoop up that McKenna American Girl doll right away. But your average toy? Sakraida says to hold off. "We see quite a few fairly decent toy deals, but things will get cheaper later in December," she says. "Unless it's a really hot item that you're after, wait for them to get cheaper in the two weeks before Christmas."

Name-brand electronics: TVs, digital cameras and laptops are huge Black Friday draws, but it's not necessarily the time to buy one. The generic brand TV that the big-box store is offering is, likely, a huge bargain, says Sakraida. But anything name brand — Sony, Canon, etc. — will see its best price in the first couple months of 2013, right before the latest models hit shelves.

Winter apparel: If you're shopping for yourself, wait. "You'll see a lot of good coupons — but if you're looking for something like a heavy down winter coat, you'll see a better price in January," says Sakraida.

Holiday decor: "When it comes to Christmas decorations, these are things they're hoping you'll just grab while you're out," she says.

Jewelry and watches: If you're looking for yourself, wait until after the holidays to buy jewelry or watches, says Sakraida. These are popular gifts, so retailers aren't offering their best deals.

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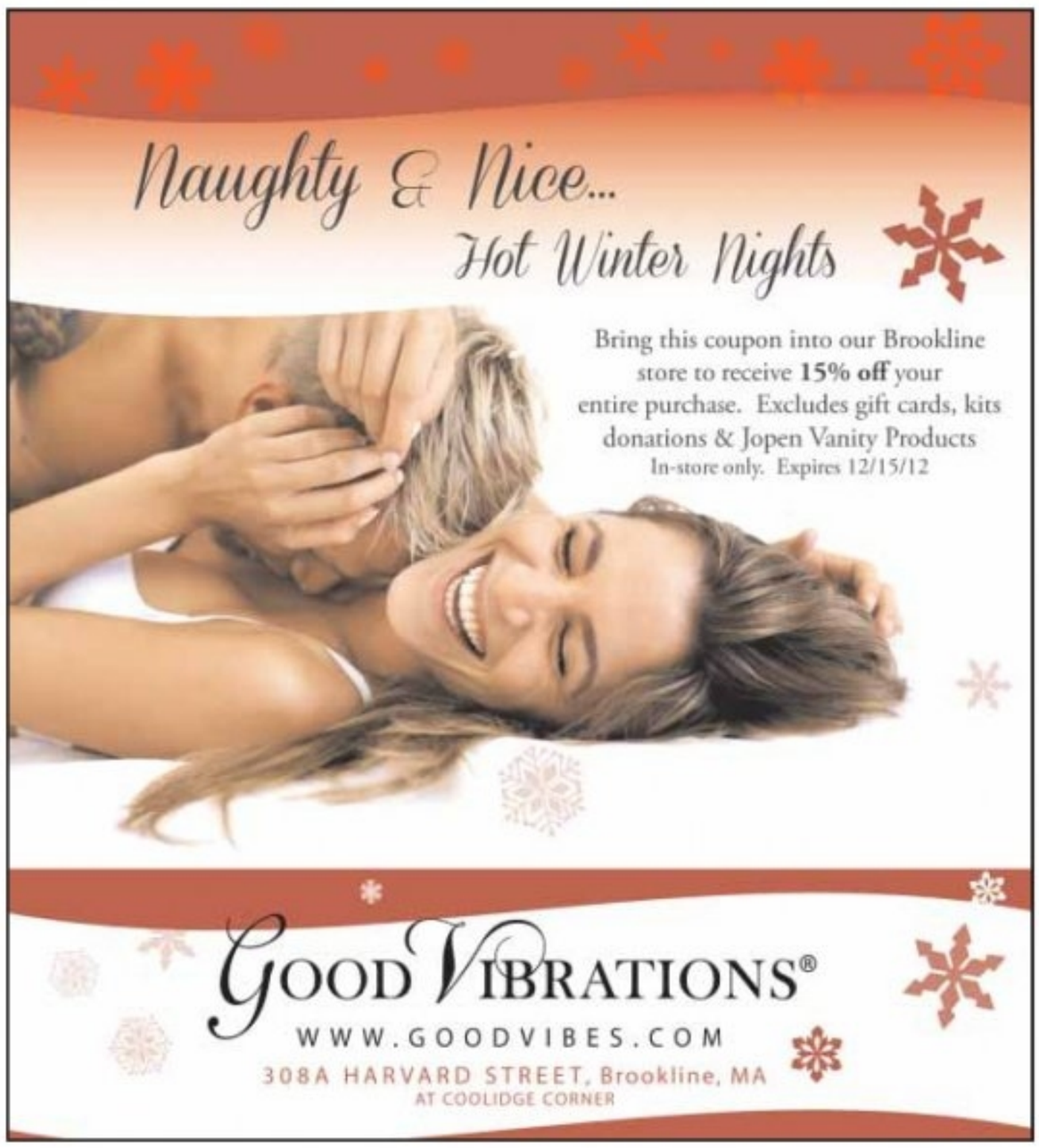
Juicy Couture's sequined clutch is the perfect New Year's Eve date. $248, www.juicycouture.com

Stocking-stuffer all-stars: Aveda's Nourish-mint lip-plumping glazes in Nepali Berry and Himalayan Ice. $18, www.aveda.com

If Schwinn's Rendezvous bike isn't her favorite thing under the tree, a Metro staffer will show up to your house and eat said tree. Promise. $650, www.schwinnbikes.com



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black friday guide

Gifts for her (continued):

Oddball pick

For the woman with everything, including a sick sense of humor: The Zombie Tarot Kit includes 78 cards depicting scenes of undead mayhem and a handy guide to the apocalypse. (Spoiler alert: You're screwed.) **$17,**
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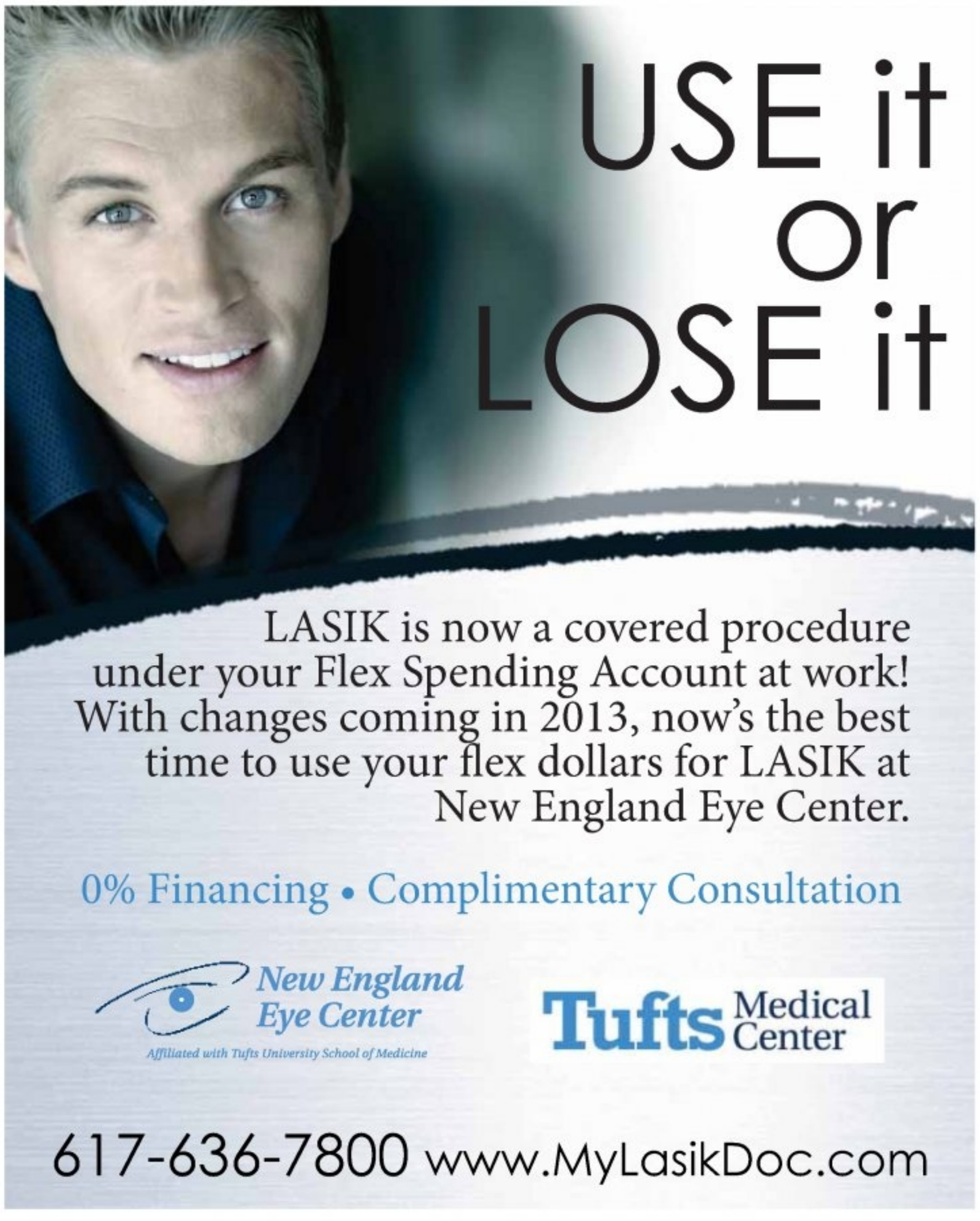

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black friday guide

Gifts for him

Best buys for your best boys

Look no further: We've got your gadgets, bow ties and foosball tables right here

MONICA WEYMOUTH

1. Made from stainless steel and iroko wood, Restoration Hardware's foosball table will make him believe in Santa again. **$3,995, www.restorationhardware.com**

2. Tivoli Audio's noise-canceling Radio Silenz headphones are your ears' true buds. **$160, www.tivoliaudio.com**

3. Native's Jimmy boots made PETA's Vegan Holiday Guide because, like all of the brands' shoes, they're 100 percent animal product-free. They make ours because they're ruby red. **$90, www.zappos.com**

4. There's nothing nerdy about Club Monaco's cheeky new bow-ties. **$60 each, www.clubmonaco.com**

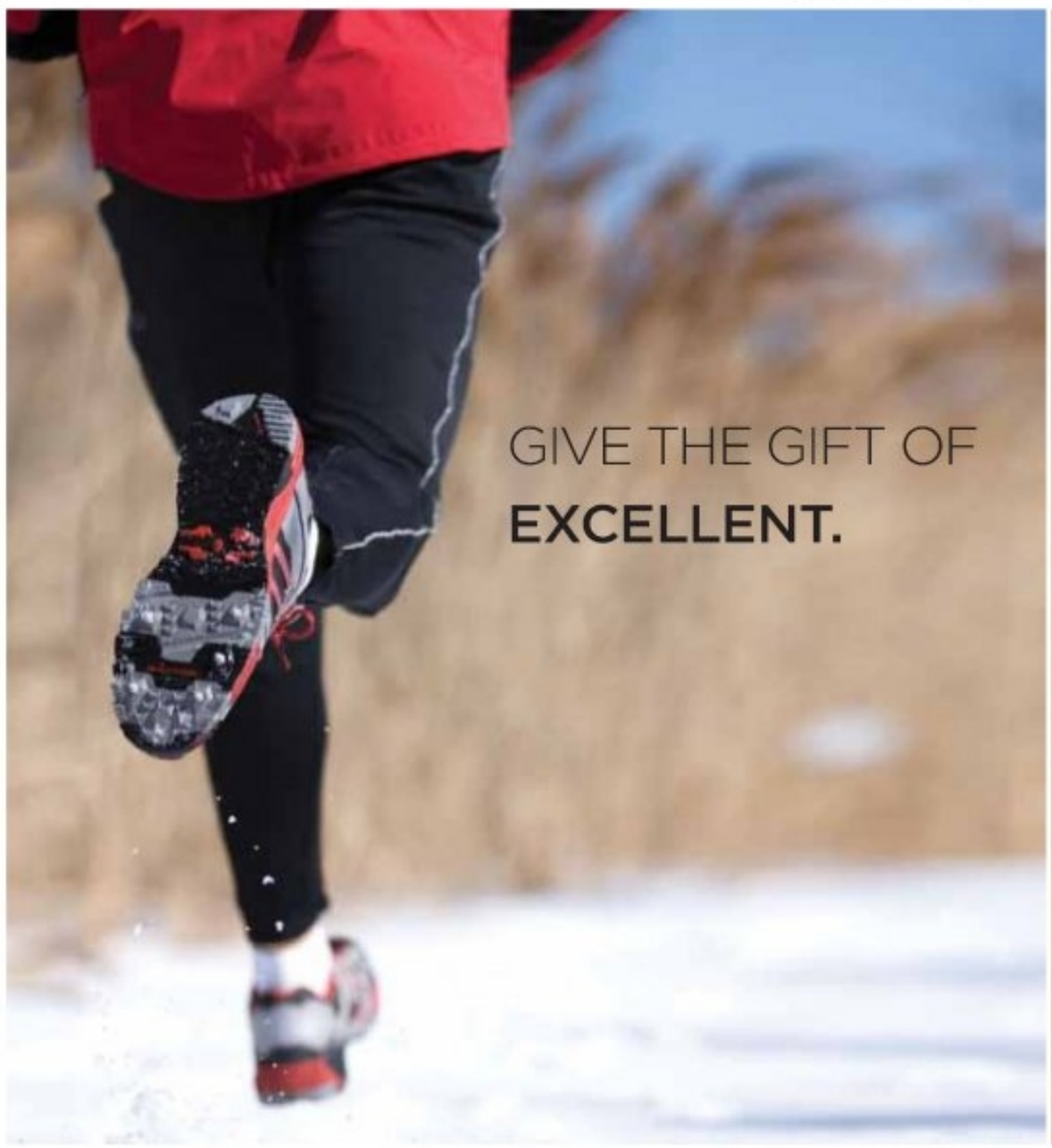
5 & 6. The National Geographic Store is a little-known treasure chest of dude gifts. On our can't-fail list this year: The windproof, water-resistant lighter that laughs in the face of 75 mph gusts and the night vision monoculars. You're welcome. **$50 (lighter) and $199 (monoculars),** www.ngstore.com

Got a geek?

The nerds on your list just got lucky — for once.

For $50, Highland Titles will sell you one square foot of an estate in Glencoe Wood, Scotland — meaning your gift recipient can legally use the Scottish title of lord or lady (and yes, they'll get a title deed to prove it). Proceeds benefit work to preserve forests taken over by industry and farming. **www.highlandtitles.com**

A TED Live membership allows members to stream the TED and TEDGlobal conferences, annual gatherings where big thinkers present their world-changing ideas in 18 minutes or less. It's pricey at $995, but they're throwing in an iPad mini. **www.ted.com**



black friday guide

Here's the deal

From limited door-busters to more casual weekend deals, what's on retailers' Black Friday menus Too tired from turkey? Many offers are available online

1 Where: Walmart
What: Walmart's Black Friday begins insanely early, at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving, with specials on toys, apparel and home goods. At 10 p.m., the brand-name electronics big-time sale kicks off with the marquee offers.
Plus: To avoid a frenzy, this year Walmart is guaranteeing that customers who are inside the store and in line between 10 and 11 p.m. on Thursday can score the following deals: Apple iPad 2 16GB with Wi-Fi ($399), Emerson 32" 720p LCD TV ($148) and LG Blu-Ray Player ($38).

2 Where: Kohl's
What: Kohl's stores open at midnight on Thanksgiving. The many specials include 50 percent off toys from Fisher-Price, Playskool, Little Tikes, Barbie, Disney Princess and Hot Wheels, among other lines.
Plus: Starting tomorrow, you can shop more than 500 Black Friday "early bird" specials at Kohls.com. From Wednesday through Sunday, earn $15 Kohl's Cash for every $50 spent (in stores or online).

3 Where: J.C. Penney
What: For its only sale of the year, J.C. Penney — which recently slashed prices and did away with specials — is opening at 6 a.m. on Friday for a no-coupons-required sale.
Plus: Click over to www.jcp.com on Thanksgiving to shop the Black Friday sales.

4 Where: Gap
What: Gap stores are opening at midnight on Thanksgiving with discounts of up to 60 percent off and deals including $19 sweaters.
Plus: Saturday also has door-buster deals until noon.

5 Where: Sports Authority
What: Most locations are opening at midnight on Thanksgiving and will offer door-buster deals until 3 p.m. on Black Friday proper, including 35 percent off NCAA, MLB, NBA, NHL and MLS fan apparel.

6 Where: Athleta
What: Athleta's "Take a Breather from Black Friday" in-store events will feature fitness classes, giveaways and personal shoppers to do the work for you.

7 Where: Sears
What: Sears is opening at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving and staying open continuously until 10 p.m. on Friday. Door-busters, available until 4 a.m. Friday, include $500 NordicTrack treadmills.

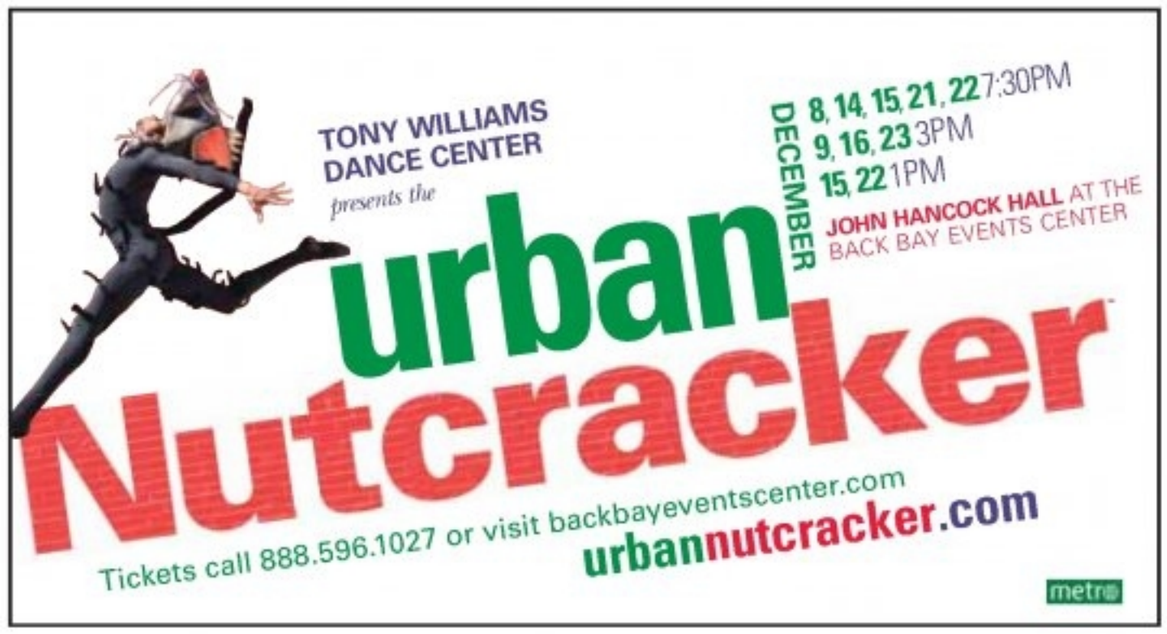
8 Where: A I X Armani Exchange
What: In stores and online, take $50 off every $150 purchase.

9 Where: Juicy Couture
What: Special offers include glittery iPhone cases for $15, totes for $60 and fur-trimmed velour hoodies at $50 (which usually retail for $128). METRO

Priced pretty

Dyson vacuums

From Thanksgiving through Monday, all Dyson products are 25 percent off at any retailer and at **www.dyson.com.**



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OPENS FRIDAY!

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NOV. 23 - DEC. 9

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POLAR

Gifts for kids

The toys to talk about this year

Apparently, your childhood was missing an Anteater Bug Vac

Pinktastic Barbie collection, $20 each, at Kohl's stores and www.kohls.com

Spy Evidence Kit, $22, www.spymuseumstore.org

Spider Spud, $10, www.hasbrotoyshop.com

DwellStudio plush, $40 each, www.dwellstudio.com

Tea set, $68, www.mysweetmuffin.com

Tasteful holiday treasure.

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Matching Earrings available

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Upper Level, Center Court across from Victoria's Secret, 978-531-2355
NaHoku.com

Gak, $6, www.shop.nick.com

Nat Geo WILD Anteater Bug Vac, $27, www.ngstore.com

My Little Pony Twilight Sparkle Car, $25, www.hasbrotoyshop.com

Letters

letters@metro.us

GOP not going Green any time soon

RE: "SWEEP THE DUST OFF THE FISCAL CLIFF" (METRO, NOV. 19)
Letter writer Pas Argenio appears to think that losing a close election to an incumbent president equals the complete decimation of the entire losing political party. This despite the fact that the Republican Party still controls the House of Representatives. President Obama carried 26 states and Mitt Romney carried 24 — hardly a party-ending loss. In fact, historically speaking, Romney put up one of the closest challenges to an incumbent president in history. The House is considered the closest representation of the people, since each member is required to be elected every two years. Surprisingly, that is not the most ridiculous thing he writes. The idea that the Republican Party will be replaced by the Green "Party" actually made me smile for the first time since Ohio was called for Obama.
KEVIN METZ, VIA E-MAIL

Checks and balances aren't just financial terms

For everyone who is disappointed in the results of the presidential election, it doesn't matter who is elected to be the president because the power to make laws resides in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The president has limited powers according to the United States Constitution. Congress has allowed him to usurp his powers. We must keep in contact with our elected officials. We have elected them to office and they are supposed to represent us. We must trim down the size of the federal government, otherwise future generations will inherit our massive federal debt.
JANET MCCARTHY, VIA E-MAIL

Romney's mouth is Obama's real gift

In his diatribe against the voters who reelected President Obama, Romney forgot to mention that Obama also received 67 percent of the Jewish vote and 73 percent of the Asian vote.

Vermont, the whitest state in the union, gave Obama his widest margin of victory. Are all these people waiting for gifts from Obama? Romney alienated voters with his disdainful remarks about 47 percent of the American population. It is no wonder he lost the election.
CAROLYN CASEY, VIA E-MAIL

Charity both import and export in US

RE: "TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN NEEDY FIRST" (METRO, NOV. 14)
In response to letter writer Frank St. George's idea to postpone all foreign aid until America has recovered from Sandy, consider this: I was in Britain on Sept. 11, 2001 and the reaction there was truly overwhelming; millions of people from wealthy businessmen signing checks to little kids sacrificing their pocket money all in the hope that they could make things better for America — Britain was not alone in this endeavor, most other countries acted likewise, so I have every reason to believe that the world has reacted with empathy and generosity on this occasion too.
JAYNE EISAN, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Enjoy the day, but be sure to pace yourself wisely when involved in any kind of activity that draws upon your physical and emotional energies.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Stand up for your rights if and when you feel you're not getting a fair shake. Reasonable adjustments can be made, but they won't happen without your vociferous input.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're usually not overly concerned about who is running the show as long as they are doing a good job — which is OK. However, if you feel you can do a better job, jump in.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** In all probability, you'll have the wherewithal to derive huge benefits from something that appears to have little or no promise. You'll recognize its hidden worth.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be sure to include in your social plans some old friends with whom you'll be at ease. They'll be delighted to know that you still think of them as special.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You might not make the biggest splash, but people will know when you jump into the pool.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Knowledge is power, and what you have to offer could be of tremendous value to your colleagues. Don't let them think your wisdom is up for grabs -- make them pay for it.

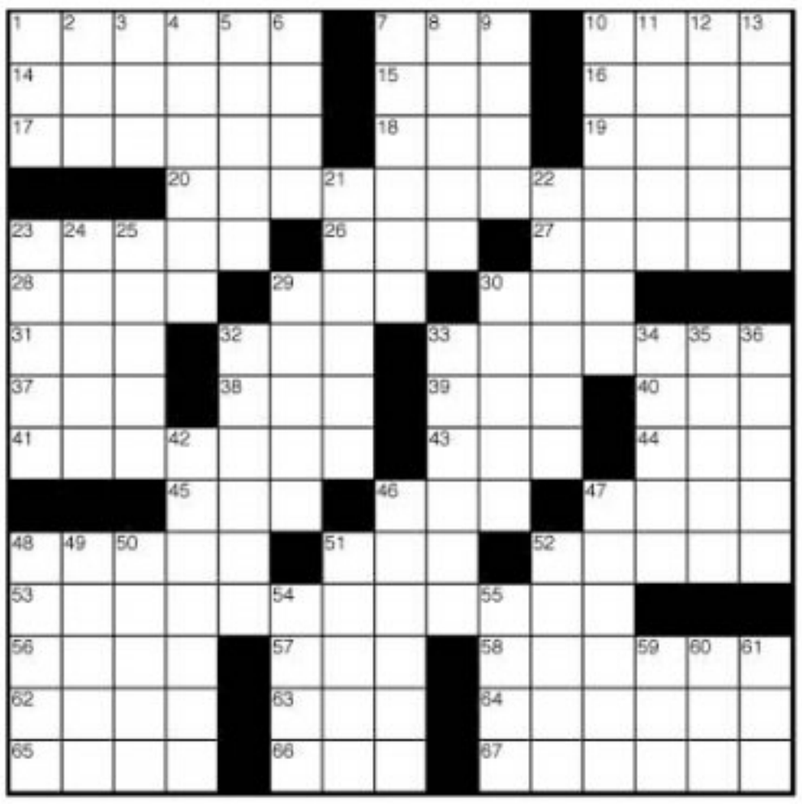
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Changes need not be challenging. Instead, handled properly, they could work for your benefit. Utilize these kinds of conditions to turn a negative into a positive.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Although you might try to avoid making a decision about something that you're unsure of, what you should do is act in the manner your best judgment dictates.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Because your productive and constructive motives are so strong, you should be able to realize any ambitious objective want. You're in a brief cycle in which you can achieve your dreams.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You'll make a welcome addition to any team effort. This is especially true for a type of activity that involves both chance and competition.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It is important that you have plenty of staying power and not be deterred by any challenges. In fact, it's when the finish line is in sight that you'll blossom the most.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL



Across
1 Curtain trim
7 Interest amt.
10 Not defy
14 Mechanic's concern
15 Zoologists' mouths
16 "— Ha'i"
17 Eye surface
18 Cold mo.
19 Word in a telegram
20 Optical instrument
23 Gourmet delicacy
26 Two of a kind
27 Ditties
28 Show up
29 Outer edge
30 Teeth-chattering sound
31 PFC mail drop
32 Understood
33 Flavor coffee
37 Resinous deposit
38 Lime cooler
39 Orders for dinner
40 Bikini half
41 Trudged along
43 Hosp. workers
44 Fay's role in "King Kong"
45 Narcissus' flaw
46 Moo companion
47 Small brown bird
48 Plenty
51 Kyoto cash
52 Smart-alecky
53 Hotel amenity (2 wds.)
56 Livy's "it was"
57 Feel grateful
58 Subcontractor
62 Ceremony
63 Tolerate
64 Not plain
65 Steel- — boots
66 RB gains
67 Raised a brood

Down
1 Muscle used in push-ups
2 The Plastic — Band
3 Ball club VIP
4 Little finger
5 NBA's Shaquille
6 Ground corn
7 Speaker's platform
8 Ism
9 Tex-Mex snack
10 Little known
11 Conductor's need
12 Split to join
13 Cry of surprise
21 Blue-penciled
22 Rat-race result
23 Sell hot tickets
24 Prickly pear
25 BP acquisition
29 Cheyenne meet
30 Safari boss
32 Gizmo
33 Minimized
34 Ski lifts (hyph.)
35 Ocean birds
36 Au pair
42 Cleaned the cache
46 Tams
47 Horse-pulled vehicles
48 Sidestep
49 Writer — Puzo
50 Piece of china
51 Swung off-course
52 Sound of slumber
54 Many, in combos
55 Hematite yield
59 Portly
60 Summer, in Savoie
61 Embarrassed

	7				9			
		1		2		8		
8	5	9		7		2		
7		6			3			
	4	5		8		7	9	
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		4		3		9	1	7
		8		1		4		
			5				8	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

2		3			1	5		8
1								2
	8	7					3	
			2	8	4			7
	7			9			5	
6			5	7	3			
	5					9	8	
3								4
7		9	8			3		5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

D	O	L	L	Y	■	Y	O	W	L	S	■	U	H	S
D	R	A	C	O	■	E	D	I	T	H	■	T	E	T
T	O	D	D	Y	■	L	I	N	D	A	■	I	R	A
■	■	■	O	I	L	E	D	■	M	C	C	O	Y	■
F	L	O	R	E	T	S	■	■	F	A	R	A	D	S
R	E	C	E	D	E	■	C	O	R	N	Y	■	■	■
A	V	E	S	■	M	A	L	A	Y	■	O	P	A	L
N	E	A	T	■	■	M	I	R	■	■	G	A	L	E
K	E	N	O	■	D	E	N	S	E	■	E	R	G	O
■	■	■	C	H	U	N	G	■	C	A	N	C	A	N
Z	O	N	K	E	D	■	■	B	R	U	S	H	E	S
E	R	A	S	E	■	S	C	O	U	T	■	■	■	■
B	I	N	■	H	O	A	R	Y	■	U	H	U	R	A
R	O	C	■	A	U	R	A	L	■	M	E	S	A	S
A	N	Y	■	W	R	I	T	E	■	N	Y	M	P	H

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

In the news

Spring-ready

The Red Sox announced their 2013 spring training schedule yesterday and pitchers and catchers will report to Fenway South in Fort Myers, Fla., on Feb. 10.

Boston will host 20 games in Fort Myers with tickets going on sale Dec. 8. They wrap up their spring slate on March 30 against the Twins before heading to New York to open their 2013 regular season schedule against the Yankees.

WWW.METRO.US

METRO.US/SPORTS
CHECK OUT THE REST OF OUR NBA RANKINGS

Entering life without Gronkowski

Belichick defends decision to not remove Gronkowski Tight end may be out until postseason begins

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick received some criticism following the news that tight end Rob Gronkowski will miss the next four to six weeks due to a broken forearm.

Belichick chose to leave Gronkowski on the field late in the Patriots' 59-24 blowout win over Indianapolis and No. 87 wound up breaking his arm while blocking on New England's final extra point attempt with 3:55 remaining in the game.

The Pats head coach defended the move yesterday, saying that "selective substitutions" late in games will never be something he's too concerned with.

Quoted

"I never like to see anybody get hurt, but I'm not sad he's missing our game."

JETS HEAD COACH REX RYAN ON THE INJURY TO ROB GRONKOWSKI

"I don't think that's really a good way to approach a team," Belichick told WEEI radio yesterday.

"I've never done that. I don't think that would be a very successful approach to it. You only have so many players. You only dress so many players. Somebody's got to play. I think you've got to be careful when you're trying to run a team, to go up to one guy and say, 'Michael, we're going to leave you in the game because we care about you — but Glenn, we're going to take you out because you're really important. You other guys go in there because if something happens to you, we don't really care.'"

Gronkowski reportedly had surgery yesterday. Under the timetable of four to six weeks, Gronkowski would be eligible to return to the field against the 49ers on Dec. 16 at the absolute earliest. The Pats wrap up their regular season schedule at Jacksonville (Dec. 23) and at home against Miami (Dec. 30). The NFL playoffs begin Jan. 5 but if the Patriots could obtain one of the two top seeds in the AFC, they would not begin postseason play until the following weekend.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rob Gronkowski could be out through the end of the regular season after surgery.

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Metro's NBA power rankings | by Jimmy Toscano

1 GRIZZLIES (8-1)
What hibernation? These Grizzlies are on the prowl and feasting on every team they come across. Eight wins in a row heading into Monday night. Small forward Rudy Gay is averaging 19.8 points per game for Memphis.

GETTY IMAGES

2 KNICKS (7-1)
Jason Kidd and Rasheed Wallace might be just a few years away from bingo night, but their Knicks are making a strong bid for top dog in the league. Their win in San Antonio put teams on notice.

3 CLIPPERS (7-2)
Just two games since last week's power rankings but one was a big win over the Heat. This week is huge with road games at San Antonio, at Oklahoma City, at Brooklyn and at Atlanta.

4 SPURS (8-2)
Gregg Popovich seems like the type of guy who puts a ton of stock in power rankings. Except the complete opposite. Wins in November have never been a big deal here.

5 HEAT (8-3)
Panic! Panic! Kidding, unfortunately, but the Heat are getting opponents' very best each night. Cleveland's best this week won't matter much.

6 THUNDER (8-3)
The Thunder fall out of the top five. Is THIS the fire they needed lit under their behinds since the Harden trade? We like to think so.

7 NETS (6-2)
The new-look Nets are on a five-game win streak and look like they could be a real threat in the Eastern Conference playoffs this spring. Too bad the hipsters in Brooklyn are already on to the next thing.

8 BUCKS (6-2)
Ladies and gentlemen, your surprise team of the year! Translation: It's too surprising to last. But still, impressive. Monta Ellis and Brandon Jennings are bringing the pain.

9 SIXERS (6-4)
Andrew Bynum has decided to draw even more attention to himself by spending extra time at the hair salon ... and by injuring his other knee.

10 CELTICS (6-5)
The Celtics wrapped up their seven-games-in-10-days stretch with an absolute stink bomb in Detroit.

11 MAVERICKS (6-5)
When O.J. Mayo is your best offensive weapon, it means two things: Mayo has stepped up his game and the Mavs can't be winning at the rate that they'd like to at this stage.

12 LAKERS (5-5)
Why do we still get the feeling that Phil Jackson could be the team's head coach later down the road this year? Mike D'Antoni (finally) makes his debut tonight.

13 TRAILBLAZERS (5-5)
Big jump for the Trailblazers this week — maybe too big — but a three-game win streak will do that. Still, their bench remains an issue.

14 BULLS (5-5)
The Bulls dropped three games over the last week. Even Joakim Noah thinks it's ugly. Last week Chicago was No. 11 in this space.

15 NUGGETS (4-6)
Still have high hopes for the Nuggets, but can't say the same for JaVale McGee and basketball IQ. Andre Iguodala is averaging a team-high 14.2 points per game for a deep Denver squad.

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